



# Sephardic Kehila Centre

יגדיל בתורת א-להינו ירבה בתוך הקהילה

## Abir Yaakob Congregation

**Rabbi** Rabbi David Kadoch    
 **Rabbi Emeritus** Hacham Amram Assayag    
 **President** Jimmy Keslassy    
 **Vice President** Isaac Cohen    
 **Shaliah Tzibur** Marc Kadoch    
 **Parnas** Avi Azuelos



Shabbat Zachor Parashat Vayikra  
 March 23rd, 2024 | 13 Adar 11, 5784  
 Parasha pg. 544 | Haftara pg. 1214

פרשת ויקרא  
 יג' אדר ב תשפ"ד

Shabbat Zemanim: Netz - - 7:15 am | Keriat Shema - - 10:19 am | Amida - - 11:21 am Shekia - - 7:34 pm

### Shabbat Services

מנחה | Minha - Main Synagogue 6:10 pm  
 Mizmor Shir Leyom HaShabat 6:55 pm  
 הדלקת נרות Standard Candle Lighting 7:15 pm

שחרית מנין החיד"א (ותיקין) | Shaharit HaHida Vatikim 6:15 am  
 Shiur Hilchot Tefila 8:15 am  
 שחרית | Shaharit - Main Synagogue 8:45 am

תהלים | Tehilim 6:20 pm  
 מנחה | Minha 6:50 pm  
 שבוע טוב | Shabbat Ends 8:18 pm

### Mazal Tov

**Rabbi Yaakov and Esther Bracha Benmergui** on the birth of a baby boy  
**Proud Grandparents:** Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Vivian Benmergui

**Ms. Miryam Cohen and Mr. Casey Pickard** on their upcoming wedding  
**Proud Parents:** Mr. and Mrs. David and Nancy Cohen and Mr. and Mrs. Cyndi and Stuart Pickard  
**Proud Grandparents:** Mrs. Ruth Golden

**Mr. & Mrs. Aryeh and Mimi Schwartz** on the birth of a baby boy in Detroit  
**Proud Grandparents:** Mr. & Mrs. Joe and Shully Elmaleh

### Happy Anniversary

- Mr & Mrs Amram & Batsheva Benquesus
- Mr & Mrs Elias & Lidia Anidjar
- Mr & Mrs Eric & Arona Benchetrit
- Mr & Mrs Albert & Leni El-Faks

### Birthdays

Elvy Cohen, Jordan Nahmias, Ninette Benlezhrah, Yehiel Boussidan,  
 Enny Cohen, David Boussidan, Ilana Arrobas, Ethan Gershon Willinger,  
 Adam Stein, Esther Buzaglo

### Weekday Services

**Sunday**  
 ותיקין | Vatikim 45 min before sunrise  
 מקדימים | Makdimim\* 8:00 am  
 קבועים | Kevuim 9:00 am  
 \*Rosh Hodesh 7:45am

**Monday - Friday**  
 ותיקין | Vatikim 40 min before sunrise  
 מקדימים | Makdimim\* 6:30 am  
 קבועים | Kevuim\* 8:00 am  
 מנחה | Minha 6:10 pm  
 ערבית | Arvit immediately following Minha  
 \*Rosh Hodesh 6:25am/7:45am

HAPPY  
 Purim  
 פורים שמח!

## Nahalot This Week

**Saturday 13 Adar 11 – March 23rd** | Marc Soberano ז"ל, Chava Shvartsman ז"ל

**Sunday 14 Adar 11 – March 24th** | Cohava Muyal ז"ל, Haim Edery ז"ל

**Tuesday 16 Adar 11 – March 26th** | Abraham Bitton bar Yaacob ז"ל, Salomon Benlezhrah ז"ל

**Thursday 18 Adar 11 – March 28th** | Isaac Oziel ז"ל, Abraham Edery ז"ל

## Nahalot Next Week

**Saturday 20 Adar 11 – March 30th** | Jacob Goldlust ז"ל

**Sunday 21 Adar 11 – March 31st** | Messody Elmaleh ז"ל

**Thursday 25 Adar 11 – April 4th** | Abraham Benedid ז"ל

**Friday 26 Adar 11 – April 5th** | Haim Keslassy ז"ל

## Synagogue News

### Purim Events & Times

**Saturday March 23rd (Motzae Shabbat) - Purim**

Shabbat ends - 8:18 pm / Arvit - 8:20 pm

Megila: 8:50 pm followed by Haydala Service by the SKC Boys Choir

**Sunday March 24th - Purim**

Shaharit: 6:20 am (medrash), 8:00am (main synagogue)

Megila ladies: 7:20am SHARP (138 Colvin Cres)

Megila: 7:35 am (medrash) 8:45 am (main synagogue)

Purim with Rabbi Kadoch: 12:30-4:00pm (138 Colvin Cres)

Minha: 4:00pm (Home of Rabbi Kadoch 138 Colvin Cres)

Wild West Purim Seudat 6:00pm (main banquet hall)

RESERVATION ONLY

Arvit: After Seuda

*Thank you for your participation and support*

MISHLOACH MANOT PURIM BOX: SOLD OUT

WILD WEST PURIM SEUDAH: SOLD OUT

### Condolences

We are sad to announce the passing of Mrs. Yvonne Stein z"l, mother to our dear friend and member Mr. Robert Stein.

We are sad to announce the passing of Mrs. Rachel Benchimol z"l, sister to our dear friend and member Mrs. Estrella Bensimon. She is survived by her three children, Abraham, Audrey and Gabriel and brothers Hillel and Levy Benchimol

### Shabbat Kiddush

Kiddushim bring everyone together on multiple levels and we are thrilled to welcome everyone to SKC for a congregational Shabbat Kiddush. Anyone interested in sponsoring all or part of a kiddush is asked to call the office at 905-669-7654 x200 or send an e-mail to [social@kehilacentre.com](mailto:social@kehilacentre.com).

**Please Join Us For This Weeks Congregational Kiddush, sponsored by the Sephardic Kehila Centre.** *Everyone is Welcome*

### Seuda Shelishit

This Week's Seuda Shelishit is Sponsored By:

Mrs. Anna Shvartsman, in loving memory of her mother, Chava Shvartsman z"l *Everyone is Welcome*

### Weekday Minha/Arvit Summer Scheduling

Please note that weekday Minha will be recited before Pelag Minha followed immediately by Arvit.

**We will begin Early Shabbat Schedule this week.**

**Minha on Friday at 6:10pm sharp.**

### Early Risers, Early Gainers

Join Rabbi Kadoch Shabbat mornings at 8:15 am for an informative shiur on Hilchot Tefila using the sefer Peninei Halakha. Coffee and tea are available.

### Tefilot and Piyutim

The young boys of the community, led by Dr. Adam Ohayon, continue learning the songs and melodies that make our services unique. To have your child participate, bring him 30 minutes before Minha on Shabbat afternoon.

### PARASHA PRISMS: Shiur for men and women

Parashat HaShavua Shiur by Rabbi Kadoch will take place this week on Monday at 8:00PM.

Open to men and ladies

### Special Shiur by Efi Palvanov - Now bi-weekly at the SKC

Join Efi Palvanov and his exciting series of classes every other week on Wednesdays in the Downstairs Synagogue.

Next class is April 3rd. See you there!

### Weekly Shiurim

Midrash by Night - **8:00-9:30 pm** Tuesday and Thursdays

Parashat HaShavua - **7:30 pm** Monday / **8:15 pm** Bilvavi-Mussar

Hilchot Tefila - Shabbat at **8:15 am** Main Synagogue

Gemara Sanhedrin - Sundays at **7:15 am** Downstairs synagogue.



# Divrei Torah - Perashat Vayikra/Purim

By: Rabbi David Kadoch

## **Purim 5784 - Worrying for the wellbeing of others**

In the Megilat Esther, we encounter Mordechai, a figure of immense importance in the salvation of the Jewish people. Despite his pivotal role as a leader and his numerous responsibilities, Mordechai consistently made time to check on Esther, the orphaned cousin whom he had raised. The pasuk states, "Every day Mordecai would walk back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her."

This seemingly small act of care and concern carries profound significance. Mordechai could have easily delegated this task to a messenger or someone else, considering his position and duties. However, he chose to personally ensure Esther's well-being. This choice illustrates Mordechai's deep sense of responsibility and love for his people. It underscores the importance of showing compassion and support to those in need, even amidst pressing obligations.

The Megilah teaches us a valuable lesson through Mordechai's actions: salvation often comes through compassion and caring for one another. In a moment of crisis, Mordechai's concern for Esther was not just an act of kindness; it was a catalyst for divine intervention. The Midrash even suggests that Hashem's mercy upon the Jewish people was a direct response to Mordechai's mercy towards Esther.

To further illustrate this principle, let us consider a story from the Jewish community in the town of Brisk during World War II. Despite the imminent danger facing the Jewish population, one man remained diligent in his observance of Shabbat. When asked to gather in the main square on Shabbat, he chose to hide in the women's section of the synagogue to avoid violating a Rabbinical prohibition regarding walking outside with a loose button on Shabbat. Remarkably, he was spared while the rest of the community, including his own family, tragically perished in the gas chambers. This anecdote highlights the significance of seemingly small religious observances and the mysterious ways in which they can impact our lives. Just as Mordechai's visits to Esther played a crucial role in the salvation of the Jewish people, the meticulous adherence to religious laws, even in challenging circumstances, can have profound consequences.

In the story of Purim, we learn that the decree against the Jewish people was a result of their violation of the Rabbinical prohibition of Bishul Akum. To rectify this sin, we observe four commandments: reading the Megilah, giving Mishloach Manot (gifts to friends), Matanot LaEvyonim (gifts to the poor), and enjoying Seudat Purim (the festive meal). These actions serve as reminders of the importance of unity, kindness, and adherence to religious principles. As we reflect on the lessons of Purim and Mordechai's unwavering dedication to Esther, let us strive to emulate his example. Let us prioritize acts of compassion, support, and adherence to our religious traditions, recognizing that even the smallest gestures can have a profound impact on our lives and the fate of our people. Through our collective efforts, may we bring about blessings, redemption, and joy for ourselves and future generations.

By: Rabbi Eli Mansour

## **Purim: "Ve'nahafoch Hu" – Turning the Tables**

In the first chapter of Megilat Ester, we read that King Ahashverosh become inebriated during the lavish feast he hosted for the people of Shushan, and he invited his queen, Vashti, to appear before his guests. Ahashverosh was incensed, and he consulted with his team of legal advisors. One of these advisors was Memuchan, whom tradition identifies as Haman. Haman told the king that he, as the monarch, enjoyed dictatorial powers, and could respond to Vashti's disobedience however he saw fit. Ahashverosh, of course, was quite pleased with Haman's ruling.

In essence, then, Haman was the one who empowered Ahashverosh, who granted him absolute, unconditional and unrestrained authority. His advice as a legal counsel paved the way for Ahashverosh to exercise unlimited power over his kingdom. Not surprisingly, sometime later, Ahashverosh promoted Haman to the position of vizier, second only to the king himself. This was the king's reward to Haman for granting him absolute power.

Ironically, this authority which Haman invested in Ahashverosh is what led to his own downfall. Later in the Megilla, Ester hosted a feast for Ahashverosh and Haman, during which she informed the king that her people were condemned to annihilation by Haman's edict to kill the Jews. Ahashverosh was incensed, and, at the recommendation of one of his servants – Harbona – ordered that Haman be executed. In but an instant, Haman went from being Ahashverosh's most trusted advisor to being hung on a tree by the king's order. And what made this possible was the unlimited powers that Haman, as a legal advisor, granted to Ahashverosh. It was only because Haman had established the king's unlimited authority that Ahashverosh was able to order somebody's execution on a whim. In this way, Haman brought about his own downfall.

This analysis underscores the theme of "Ve'nahafoch Hu" ("It was reversed" – Ester 9:1), which is among the prominent features of the Purim miracle. Not only was the Jews' condemnation to destruction reversed to triumph and celebration, but the salvation itself unfolded in a manner of "reversal." Like a boomerang, Haman's efforts to win Ahashverosh's favor came back to hurt him, leading to his downfall. Another example of this phenomenon is Pharaoh, who thought he could keep Beneh Yisrael enslaved by decreeing the murder of all newborn boys. The Sages explain that Pharaoh was informed by his astrologers that the person who would rescue Beneh Yisrael from slavery would soon be born. Pharaoh therefore set out to prevent the prospective savior from arising by ordering that all newborn boys be put to death. As we know, when Moshe was born, his mother decided to try to save him from the authorities by placing him in a basket in the Nile River, where he was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter. The princess brought the infant and raised him as her son. It thus turned out that Pharaoh's efforts to prevent Beneh Yisrael's savior from emerging resulted in the savior being raised by Pharaoh himself! One of the more famous passages of the Haggadah text we read at the Seder is "Ve'hi She'ameda." In this paragraph, we proclaim that in every generation, we have enemies who rise against the Jewish People and try to annihilate us, but "Ha'Kadosh Baruch Hu Masilenu Mi'yadam" – "The Almighty rescues us from their hand." The term "Mi'yadam" ("from their hand") could be understood to mean that Hashem saves us through the hand of our enemies. The salvation actually comes "from their hand" – as a result of their efforts to harm us, which then backfire and bring about their downfall. This is what happened to Pharaoh and Haman, and this is what happened to many of our enemies throughout the ages.

We hope and pray that today's enemies, too, will soon meet their downfall, and that their vicious attempts to destroy us will turn around on them and lead to their defeat, Amen



SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE

בס"ד

# WILD WEST PURIM

SUNDAY  
MARCH 24TH  
6 PM

ADULTS \$55  
KIDS \$35

**SOLD OUT**



## EVENING OF FUN!

GOURMET BUFFET & UNIQUE MELODIES!  
WILD WEST COCKTAILS!  
KAHOOT TRIVIA & MECHANICAL BULL RIDE!  
PRIZE FOR FANCY DRESS!

REGISTER AT: [WWW.KEHILACENTRE.COM/EVENT/PURIM2024](http://WWW.KEHILACENTRE.COM/EVENT/PURIM2024)

# CELEBRATE PURIM WITH THE RABBI

JOIN RABBI KADOCH AND HIS  
FAMILY AND ENJOY DELICIOUS  
FOOD AND WINE

Come together to share the joy of  
the Purim Holiday with our  
community.  
Lots of delicious food and wine,  
music, and lots of candy for the  
kids.

FOR MEN, WOMEN AND KIDS  
OF ALL AGES.

SUNDAY MARCH 24TH  
1230PM TO 400PM  
(MINHA AT 4PM)

138 COLVIN CRES



# POKER

Grand Prize  
Cash



50/50  
Draw Raffle

Grand Prize  
Sponsorship  
Available

Sunday March 31 @ 7:30PM

PETAH TIKVA 20 DANBY AVENUE

100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO MAOT HITTIM

Cash Prize, Designer Sunglasses, Jewelry, Leafs, Raptor & Blue Jay Tickets,  
Night out Dinner, Vintage Wines, Hush Blankets & Much Much More!

GENERAL ADMISSION INCLUDES BINGO: \$60

POKER TOURNAMENT: \$125

Contact Nina at Petah Tikva to reserve: 416 636 4719 / [office@petahtikva.ca](mailto:office@petahtikva.ca)  
or online at: [petahtikva.ca/donate](http://petahtikva.ca/donate) RE: Poker and Bingo Night



SISTERHOOD

## Mishloach Manot

The SKC Sisterhood is pleased to offer a box of our favorite  
Sephardic treats. Send as a Mishloach Manot or sweeten  
your own Purim table.

ONLY  
\$40.00  
PER BOX

Proceeds will fund future Sisterhood events.  
Limited supply. Order soon!

Special thank you to Kasher City, Fanny Queroub, Jacob Azulay  
and Mercedes Abecassils for preparing delicious treats. (Please  
note, may not look as picture displays and pastries prepared in  
strictly kosher kitchens.)

Pick up date Sunday March 24th 9am - 12pm at the SKC  
To order, <https://www.kehilacentre.com/event/Purimbox>

